

PROFILES

IDAHO SCHOOL DISTRICTS



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FOREWORD

The State Department of Education's annual *Profiles: Idaho School Districts* report was first published in 1989, and since then has become an important source of information about the status of the state's 114 districts. It provides an apples-to-apples comparison of various elements of the state's K-12 education system: test scores over a three-year period, revenues and expenditures, number of students qualifying for special attention (such as special education or gifted and talented programs), instructional salaries, and many others.

Just as important, the *Profiles* emphasizes the unique characteristics of each school district. Idaho's public school system relies heavily on local control through the governance of elected school board members. Each board deals with a different mix of students, revenue sources, local support, district goals, and special programs. A patron who wonders why one district receives a significantly higher infusion of federal funds than another of roughly the same size will be able to trace that difference to higher numbers of limited English proficient students or students who qualify for free or reduced meals at school or to other factors.

The fact that *Profiles* is updated each year is due to the willingness of the state's school districts to work closely with the SDE's Bureau of Finance and Transportation. Together, they make possible this annual compilation of objective, comparative, useful information about factors that affect student performance and district operations. We hope Idaho's citizens and educators continue to find this report useful.


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